## **MEETING SUMMARY**



# 18<sup>th</sup> NREL Industry Growth Forum San Francisco, California November 7-9, 2005

The 18th NREL Industry Growth Forum was held November 7-9, 2005 in San Francisco, California and was hosted by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the California Energy Commission and the Environmental Business Cluster where the State of California is demonstrating it's commitment to clean energy technology development and implementation to promote a strong economy and a healthy environment.

NREL was pleased to offer a full array of special session offerings to include insights into financial risk assessment and mitigation, clean technology performance and patterns, financing special situations, going beyond venture capital and project financing with strategic alliance, mergers and acquisitions, and an overview of hot NREL technologies available for licensing.

This year the Forum united 35 competitively selected emerging clean energy technology companies to present their business cases to a wide range of investment professionals. Companies also spanned the spectrum of clean energy technologies from innovative hydrogen storage technology to electrochromics and thin film PV. Overall the Forum provided attendees with three days of networking, informative special sessions, and company "business case" presentations to promote and enhance the success of new ventures, emerging businesses, and the growth of entrepreneurship in the clean energy sector.

A special session on business case development kicked off the event. Richard Amato, Clean Energy Incubator and a FastTrac master facilitator, presented a version of FastTrac's "Listening to Your Business" workshop. The workshop provided entrepreneurs and business managers with the critical evaluation tools and action steps needed to maximize the growth and profitability of their businesses.

This year's forum had 370 registrants, including venture capitalists, angel investors, commercial and investment bankers, private lenders, along with representatives of the nation's most innovative and promising energy companies. The event also featured addresses from Joe Desmond, Chair of the California Energy Commission, Art Rosenfeld, Commissioner of the California Energy Commission, and an engaging discussion lead by Ralph Cavanaugh, Co-Director, Energy Program for the State of California's Natural Resources Defense Council. Founding sponsors for this year's forum were NREL, the U.S. Department of Energy, the California Energy Commission, the Environmental Business Cluster, and the National Alliance of Clean Energy Business Incubators. A full list of all the many generous other sponsors can be found on www.cleanenergyforum.com.

#### **Quality Dealflow**

NREL's Industry Growth Forums are the largest national venture event focused exclusively on companies developing clean energy products to serve the hydrogen, energy and transportation infrastructure. Because we are one of the largest clean energy venture forums we are uniquely positioned to gather quality business case presentations with good dealflow potential for To put this is perspective, the presenting companies from the previous three forums have raised about \$400 million in investment. Our forums also offer an engaging interactive format - an NREL signature feature that allows clean energy business leaders to present and receive feedback on summary business plans before a panel of the nation's leading clean energy investors. Presenters were also mentored in their preparation for the Forum by a select group of incubator executives from the National Alliance of Clean Energy Business Incubators and investors. The Forum establishes a Win-Win relationship between clean energy business leaders, the financial community, and ultimately the clean energy industry as a whole by stimulating business development.

#### **2005 Business Case Presenters**

Companies showcased at this event included a wide spectrum of the most promising cutting-edge clean energy technologies in the clean energy The 35 presenting companies were industry. selected from more than 100 entries to present their business plan to industry investment leaders, and represent emerging, innovative companies in the clean energy industry. The criteria used by the selection committee, consisting of investors, included strength of the business model, potential return on investment and market need. A full list of the presenting companies judged to be leaders in this industry by the forum panelists can be found at <u>www.cleanenergyforum.com</u>.

The panelists included those from leading investment and law firms such as Altira Group, Blue Hill Partners, Nth Power, RockPort Capital **Business Case Presenters** 

**Advanced Energy Products Applied Nanoworks** Cleveland Gas Systems **Community Power Corporation** Dais Analytic Corporation **EdenSpace Systems Corp** Energy Unlimited, Inc. Environmental Energy, Inc. FST Energy, Inc. GeoEnergy Enterprises, LLC H2Gen Innovations. Inc. H2Go. Inc. HelioDynamics HyEnergy **IOSIL** ITN Energy Systems Nextek Power Systems, Inc.

NuEdison

One Cycle Control, Inc. Prism Solar Holographic **Prometheus Energy Company** 

Redwood Rubber, LLC

Renewable Choice Energy Ribbon Technology

Seattle Biodiesel

Solar Sentry

Southwest Windpower

Sterling Planet

SVV Technology Innovations, Inc.

**Trinity Thermal** 

Vairex Corporation

Wilson TurboPower, Inc.

Wind Harvest Company

Zia Power Inc.

Partners, Sevin Rosen Funds, NPG Energy Technology Partners, Braemar Energy Ventures, HellerEhrman, Bridge Bank, First Albany Technology Ventures, Battelle Ventures, Milbank, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati, and Hamilton Clark.

#### The 2005 Clean Energy Entrepreneur and Outstanding Presentation Winners

The National Alliance of Clean Energy Business Incubators, to promote and support the creation of world-class businesses, and bring more clean energy technology options into the mainstream energy market, sponsored this year's Clean Energy Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.



This year's Grand Prize, valued at \$15,000 (cash and services), was awarded to H2Go (SolFocus). H2Go researches and develops advanced renewable solutions in the areas such as electricity, fresh water, and the production of hydrogen. The two Outstanding Presentation Awards, valued at \$3,000 (cash and services), were awarded to Prometheus Energy Company, and Renewable Choice Energy. Prometheus Energy Company alternative-fuel is an company specializing in the production, sale and

distribution of liquid natural gas. Renewable Choice Energy partners with wind farms and project developers and is one of the largest retail distributors of wind energy credits.

### The 19th NREL Industry Growth Forum – Fall 2006 in Philadelphia PA.

Applications to present at the 19<sup>th</sup> NREL Industry Growth Forum will be accepted beginning in the Spring 2006. Look for more information about the next Forum as it becomes available at <a href="https://www.cleanenergyforum.com">www.cleanenergyforum.com</a>.